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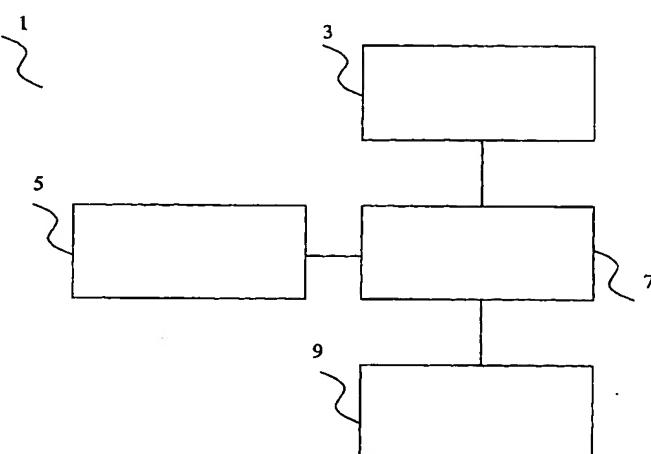
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(54) Title: AN APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING A LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN A RISK ASSESSMENT AND/OR DETERMINING A LEVEL OF ACCEPTABILITY OF AN EVENT OCCURRING



(57) Abstract: An apparatus (1) for assisting a user in determining a level of confidence in a risk assessment, the apparatus comprising: input means (3) for receiving at least one of a set of factors each of which can affect the level of confidence in the risk assessment; storage means (5) for storing the set of factors and a set of weighting indicators, wherein each factor within the set of factors is associated with a weighting indicator from the set of weighting indicators; processing means (7) for processing the at least one of the set of factors entered into the input means (3) and processing the set of factors stored in the storage means (5) in order to identify a factor in the set of factors which corresponds to the at least one factor entered into the input means (3); and output means (9) for outputting the set of weighting indicators and the weighting indicator associated with the factor identified by the processing means (7).

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU03/01556

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
Int. Cl. 7: G06F 17/60, 17/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI, INTERNET (RISK, ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT, CONFIDENCE)		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FELTER S. et al. "The Inexact Science of Risk Assessment (and Implications for Risk Management)" Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: 1998 Vol. 4, No.2 pp 245-251 Page 248	32,37
Y	Whole document	1-45
Y	US 6353767 B1 (WAKEMAN et al.) 5 March 2002 Abstract, figures, column 2 lines 35-63, column 8 lines 15-18, Tables	1-45
Y	US 6223143 B1 (WEINSTOCK et al.) 24 April 2001 Abstract, Figures 16,26, column 1 lines 14-40, col. 2 lines 10-12, column 22 line 55 to column 23 line 14	1,15,18,29,32, 37
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 22 December 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report 6 JAN 2004	
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5999918 A (WILLIAMS et al.) 7 December 1999 Whole document	1,15,18,29,32, 37
Y	WO 98/13776 A1 (RCO SOFTWARE LIMITED) 2 April 1998 Abstract, figures, claims	1,15,18,29,32, 37
A	Whole document, especially pages 1-26	1-45
A	US 6219805 B1 (JONES et al.) 17 April 2001 Whole document, especially abstract and figures	1-45
NOTE:	The X citation discloses features of the listed independent claims on its own. This citation, when combined with documents (such as US 6353767) that explicitly disclose computer implemented methods of confidence scoring render claims 1-45 lacking an inventive step. Or alternatively the independent claims 1,15,18,29,32,37 lack an inventive step when citations pertaining explicitly to risk assessment (the X document or US6223143 or WO98/13776) are combined with citations explicitly disclosing confidence scoring ( such as US 6353767 or US599918).	

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

Information on patent family members

International application No.

**PCT/AU03/01556**

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member	
US	6353767	NONE		
US	6223143	NONE		
US	5999918	NONE		
WO	9813776	AU 44832/97	US 5930762	
US	6219805	NONE		

END OF ANNEX